

The original specimens had been collected at several places in Aroostook Co., Me., by Mr. Olaf O. Nylander.

*Pis. costatum* n. sp. (fossil).

Mussel small, somewhat oblique, strongly inflated, with three or four concentric, prominent ridges on each valve; beaks rather posterior, large, much projecting over the hinge margin, flattened on top with a sharp, prominent concentric ridge around the flattened part; outline of the valves rather oval or ovoid, with the supero-anterior slope somewhat less curved, the anterior end subangular and the posterior end subtruncate; surface with fine, irregular striæ and lines of growth between the ridges; shell rather thin; hinge rather short, stout and compact, plate moderately broad, and short, cardinal teeth well formed, the right slightly curved, thicker at the posterior end, the left anterior large, almost straight, ascending obliquely and the lamella strongly curved up, its posterior part projecting over the inferior edge of the plate; the posterior rather parallel with the anterior and extending over about two-thirds of the latter; lateral teeth close to the cardinals and the ligament, short, those of the right valve stout, pointed, the outer ones very slight, especially so the anterior, the grooves short and deep, the left laterals moderately stout, high, pointed; ligament short and strong.

Size: Long 2.5, alt. 2.1 (with the beaks), diam. 2.3 mill.

Fossil in a marl bed at Monitor, Bay Co., Michigan, in company with other *Pisidia*, collected and sent for examination by Mr. Bryant Walker.

This species seems to stand near *Pis. ventricosum* Pr., but its beaks are less posterior, and the outlines are rather different. It also resembles *P. scholtzii* Cless. as described and figured, with the flattened beaks. This feature, however, does not seem to be constant. In two specimens of *P. scholtzii* which I owe to the kindness of Mr. Clessin, the beaks are slightly "calyculate," but not flattened on top. Also in a few younger valves of *P. costatum*, the beaks are less flattened, and the ribs slighter.

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#### A PROPOSED STUDY OF GONIOBASIS.

LAWRENCEBURG, IND., MAY, 1903.

EDITORS OF THE NAUTILUS :

For many years I have been under the impression that the infor-

mation that now exists and is at the command of the conchologist, in reference to the genus *Goniobasis*, both in the form of labeled collections and literature, is in such shape as to be practically useless to the average collector for the following reasons :

1st. That the local collectors and students have in their collections recorded species and varieties of species, many of which are entirely due to local surroundings, and which should not be recognized, as they now are, as distinct species. These have never been brought together in numbers sufficient to allow of a proper estimate as to their value as separate species.

2d. That the individual study of this family, in many cases without the means of comparing large numbers of so-called species and varieties, has resulted in much confusion and caused a prevalent erroneous conception of their value as species.

3d. That the great difficulty which the study of this family presents, the liability to error, and the dislike of any one to publish work which may afterwards prove to be wrong, has deterred many from putting forward their individual information, which would be of great value when used in connection with a mass of similar information from other sources.

With these facts before me, I believe that some step ought to be taken to at least do something to throw additional light on this large genus of North American mollusks.

My idea is as follows ; Take George W. Tryon's *Strepomatidæ* of North America, use his list of the *Goniobasis* as a basis, and build up a monograph of the genus on the foundation and along the lines laid down by him.

Many "species" very closely related in geographical distribution are named as such simply from a variation of color, a variation which exists in almost every known species to a greater or less degree.

With a large collection of my own, with the opportunity of examining several others of fair dimensions and containing large series of *Goniobasis*, and with a tolerably large proportion of the existing literature at hand, I am satisfied that with the generous help of others interested in this matter I may undertake the task, hoping that some good end may be obtained. I propose to send out to all students of the subject lists of all the described species of the genus *Goniobasis*, requesting them to correct such lists to the best of their judgment and ability, and to supply me by exchange or loan with

sufficient material, and with such information as may tend to satisfactorily solve all questions that may arise. By this means I might hope to accumulate sufficiently ample and valuable information to serve for the eventual publication of an up-to-date work on the subject.

Yours truly,

A. C. BILLUPS.

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

NOTES ON PROSOBRANCHIATA, NO. I, LOTORIUM. — By H. Leighton Kesteven. Proc. Linn. Soc. of New South Wales, 1902, Pt. 3, pp. 443-483, pl. xvii.

This interesting paper again brings before us the old genus *Triton*, which, being pre-occupied, has long been abandoned in Mollusca, but regarding a substitute there seems to be a very diversified opinion. The author has gone thoroughly over the ground, adopting *Lotorium* Montfort, as proposed by Harris (Catl. Tertiary Moll. in Brit. Mus., Pt. 1, 1897).

Montfort's names are the earliest that can be considered (Conch. Syst., ii, 1810). *Aquillus* (type *M. cutaceus* Linn.) appears on page 579, and *Lotorium* (type *M. lotorium* Linn.) on page 583. The right to amend *Aquillus* to *Aquilus* and to discard it on grounds of uncertain etymology is questionable; still its similarity to *Aquila* makes the name less desirable than *Lotorium*, and as only a few pages intervene between the two names, it seems a small matter to discuss, still strict ruling would probably make *Aquillus* the generic name.

The author does not agree with Dr. Dall and Simpson (Moll. of Porto Rico, p. 416), who by elimination makes *Septa* Perry, 1811, the type genus of the family *Septidæ*, and recognizing three other genera, *Ranularia* and *Lampusia* Schumacher, 1817, and *Lotorium* Montf.

The author's statement that, "the whole of the species included by Tryon in *Triton* (*sensu strictu*), *Simpulium*, *Cymatium* and *Gutturnium*, form one natural genus," is apparent to any one who has made a study of all the species based solely on conchological characters.

From the figure of Perry's *Septa rubicunda*, and the habitat "New Holland" assigned, I should consider it *T. australe* Lam. and not *T. nodiferus* Lam. The apices of twenty-nine species are described and figured.—C. W. J.